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Letter dated 19 December 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Senegal to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

In my capacity as representative of the current Chairman of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the final communiqué of the extraordinary summit of ECOWAS on Côte d'Ivoire, held at Dakar on 18 December 2002 (see annex).

Referring to the last two paragraphs of my letter dated 2 December 2002 (S/2002/1310), I should like to draw your attention to paragraph 18 of the communiqué, which, inter alia, requests the United Nations to assist in finding solutions to the crisis, and appeals to the Security Council to provide assistance to ECOWAS in its efforts to find a solution to the Ivoirian crisis.

In view of the extreme urgency of settling this crucial matter, I should be particularly grateful to you and your colleagues on the Security Council if you could consider without delay the specific forms and modalities of United Nations support for the efforts actively undertaken by ECOWAS.

I request you to have the text of this letter and its annex issued as Security Council documents.

(*Signed*) Papa Louis **Fall**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 19 December 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Senegal to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Extraordinary summit of Heads of State and Government of ECOWAS

Dakar, 18 December 2002

Final communiqué

1. The Heads of State of ECOWAS held an extraordinary summit in Dakar, Republic of Senegal on 18th December 2002 to review the situation in Côte d'Ivoire since their 29th September 2002 Summit.

2. The following Heads and State and Government or their duly accredited representatives attended the summit:

- His Excellency Blaise COMPAORE
  President of Faso
  Chairman of the Council of Ministers

- His Excellency Pedro Verona Rodrigues PIRES
  President of the Republic of Cabo Verde

- His Excellency Laurent GBAGBO
  President of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire

- His Excellency Maître Abdoulaye WADE
  President of the Republic of Senegal

- His Excellency Koffi SAMA, Prime Minister,
  representing the President of the Togolese Republic

- His Excellency Bruno AMOUSSOU,
  Honourable Minister of State, representing the President of the Republic of Benin

- His Excellency Bubacar Rachid DJALO
  Honourable Minister of State, Political and Diplomatic Adviser of the President, representing the President of the Republic of Guinea Bissau

- His Excellency Hackman Owusu-Agyeman
  Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs, representing the President of the Republic of Ghana

- His Excellency Monie R. CAPTAN,
  Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs, representing the President of the Republic of Liberia

- His Excellency Alhaji Sule LAMIDO, Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs, representing the President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

- His Excellency Boubacar Gouro DIALL, Ambassador of Mali in Senegal, representing the President of the Republic of Mali

- Mr. Amir SAMPIL, Chargé d'Affaires at the Embassy of Guinea in Dakar, representing the President of the Republic of Guinea.

3. His Excellency Ahmedou Ould ABDALLAH, Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary General for West Africa was invited as an observer.

4. The Heads of State of ECOWAS present or represented in Dakar, first took note of the report presented in Kara, Togolese Republic, on 16th December 2002 by President Gnassingbé Eyadema of Togo, Coordinator of the ECOWAS Contact Group. They commended the outcome of his role and thanked him for the success of his mediation initiatives.

5. The Heads of State also took note of the consultations held on 16th December 2002 between the Kara meeting participants and President Gbagbo. They expressed satisfaction at the spirit of brotherhood and concord that prevailed at the meeting. The Heads of State and Government thanked President Gbagbo for making the journey to Dakar, despite his heavy schedule, to present Côte d'Ivoire's view point and to participate in the quest for an ECOWAS solution to the crisis.

6. After presentation of the reports of the representatives of the Coordinator of the Contact Group and of the Executive Secretary, the Chairman of ECOWAS presented the outcome of the Kara and Abidjan meetings held to find solutions to the crisis.

7. President Gbagbo expressed gratitude to all the ECOWAS Heads of State for their efforts to restore peace to Côte d'Ivoire.

8. He thanked them particularly for their decision to deploy troops to restore constitutional order.

9. In this context, President Gbagbo announced the following measures as testimony to his goodwill:

i) The Head of State of Côte d'Ivoire will submit to ECOWAS a comprehensive crisis resolution plan next week.

ii) All necessary reforms shall be carried out through consultations among the citizens. The terms of these consultations shall be specified in the plan.

10. He announced that he was prepared to sign an agreement with the rebels under which they shall be encamped within an environment on the national territory to be secured under the supervision of ECOWAS.

11. He requested that the ECOWAS Force be set up immediately. In this context, he expressed his deep appreciation to Senegal for having accepted to be the commander of the Force in Côte d'Ivoire.

12. The Heads of State expressed satisfaction at the announcement made by President Gbagbo that the peace plan will in particular take into account the outcome of the negotiations with the insurgents.

13. The Heads of State appealed to the rebels to scrupulously observe the ceasefire and cooperate with the search for a peaceful resolution for the crisis.

14. The Heads of State and Government thanked Senegal and Nigeria for having facilitated the appointment of General Papa Khalil Fall and Ambassador Raph Uwechue, respectively Commander of the ECOWAS Monitoring Group and Special Representative of the Executive Secretary. Consequently, the Summit set 31st December 2002 as the deadline for the deployment of the ECOWAS troops. The Mediation and Security Council shall ensure effective implementation of the decision.

15. The ECOWAS Summit officially reaffirmed the legitimacy of President Gbagbo, who was democratically elected, and condemned any attempt to take power through the barrel of the gun.

16. The Summit thanked France for its assistance to Côte d'Ivoire at the request of the country for the protection of its citizens and foreigners. He expressed gratitude to France for its cooperation and for its pledge to provide the ECOWAS peacekeeping force to be sent to Côte d'Ivoire, the necessary logistic support for its field operations.

17. The Heads of State and Government renewed their appreciation to the Governments of the United States, Germany, Canada, Spain, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands and Great Britain, as well as to the African Union, the European Union, the United Nations and the international community for their assistance provided or pledged for the resolution of the crisis in Côte d'Ivoire.

18. The Summit requested the African Union, the United Nations and its Secretary-General to assist in finding solutions to the crisis. In this context, it called on the Chairman of ECOWAS to appeal to the United Nations Security Council, to provide assistance to ECOWAS in its efforts to find a solution to the ivorian crisis. It urged France and the African members to take all necessary measures to ensure the holding of a meeting of the Security Council without delay.

19. The Summit called on the donor agencies to provide urgent assistance to Côte d'Ivoire and to the countries directly affected by the situation in Côte d'Ivoire.

20. The current Chairman of ECOWAS, President Wade, expressed appreciation to President Eyadema and all members of the Contact Group for the work done.

21. He expressed his gratitude to all the Heads of State present or represented, who, despite their heavy schedule, attended the meeting as a demonstration of their solidarity with President Gbagbo and the Ivorian people.

22. Lastly, the Summit requested the current Chairman to submit this communiqué to the Chairman of the African Union, the President of the French Republic, the United Nations Secretary General, the Chairman of the Security Council and to all the African members of the Council.

Done at Dakar, this day 18th December 2002